



Stop&Shop®

New England
Division



Stop&Shop®

New York Metro
Division

March 5, 2015

300 Capitol Avenue
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Tercyak & Chairman Gomes and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

On behalf of The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC ("Stop & Shop"), I am writing concerning Assembly Bill 6784 "An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave". Stop & Shop is one of the largest employers in the state of Connecticut with more than 13,820 full and part-time associates in 94 stores. We are proud to offer competitive wage and benefit packages to all of our associates. We look forward to continuing to be a vital part of each community in which we operate in the state of Connecticut.

Stop & Shop opposes Assembly Bill 6784 because it places an additional and unfair burden on employers, particularly union employers, who have negotiated paid time off rules, which are in most cases more generous than the law required. We are still dealing with the increased costs imposed by the Paid Sick Leave law that was enacted in January of 2012. The proposed bill will increase the number of eligibility hours from 40 hours to 56 hours, which is very costly and unreasonable. Additionally, changing the period of eligibility from 680 hours to 120 calendar days will also increase our cost of operating in state of Connecticut. The proposed bill will disrupt comprehensive benefit packages that have been specifically negotiated with and agreed upon by our union associates.

We care about our associates and we want to continue to offer comprehensive benefits to our valuable workforce. We need the flexibility to deal with the needs of our individual associates, as well as the requirements of our collective bargaining agreements. The proposed bill will unfairly burden companies like Stop & Shop that already have in place comprehensive compensation and benefit packages for their associates. We strongly urge you not to support Assembly Bill 6784.

Sincerely,

Donald Sussman
President, Stop & Shop Metro Division
Interim President, Stop & Shop New England Division